

**CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

Council President Elenora Simms called the Public Session to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Council President Simms, Councilmember Brian K. Shivers, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Absent: Councilmember Charl Jones

Excused: Councilmember Johnie Higgs, Sr., Councilmember John Morris

Staff: Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer; Robert Ashton, Treasurer; Darlinda Sanders, Special Assistant, Economic & Community Development/Nuisance & Abatement; Louis Oliver, Public Works Foreman, Elliott S. Taylor, Chief of Police; Dashaun Lanham, Acting City Clerk

The invocation was given by Councilmember Yeargin

Agenda – It was moved by Councilmember Porter and second by Councilmember Shivers to approve the agenda with modifications. The motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes-It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Shivers to approve the November and December 2007 meeting minutes with changes. The motion carried.

FOR: Porter, Shivers, Simms and Yeargin

ABSTAIN: None

AGAINST: None

PRESENTATIONS

None

REPORTS

City Administrator's and Department Reports

Administration:

- Website – the design concept is attached relative to color schematics and banner format. The content will be added last.
- Ms. Karla Villegas' responsibilities now include Human Resources clerical functions.
- The ID maker was received; we are awaiting Seat Pleasant lavalieres to complete the ID process. An ID policy will also be disbursed.
- All employees completed and submitted the new City of Seat Pleasant Employment Application and Emergency Contact forms.
- Administration has requested a meeting with the Public Works Committee to review engineering consultant proposals for the Feggans Center roof.
- The community services room at the Feggans Center has been sealed off due to an immediate roof collapse hazard.
- There were 321 events held at the Feggans Center in 2007; the total fees collected were \$137,305; the average fee per event was \$428.
- The Administrator and Treasurer are preparing a budget re-appropriation ordinance for Council consideration at the Monday, February 11th public session.
- Community groups have been contacted to submit requests to the City Council to use the Feggans Center facilities at no charge. The letters will be evaluated and packaged and submitted to Council by February 11th.
- Prince George's County is renovating 4 City streets at absolutely no charge to Seat Pleasant. The work is being supervised by County staff, as well. Concrete work (sidewalk, curbs) will be performed first, followed by razing and resurfacing of asphalt in the Spring, after the weather adjusts. Streets are: 68th Place, 69th Street, Crown Street, Baltic Street (sidewalks only), and Drylog Street. If funding can be located, James Farmer Way will be added to the list. These streets do not conflict with the City's FY32 CDBG grant application.
- The speed hump locations approved by the County in our recently amended FY31 CDBG grant is attached.

Code Enforcement:

- The new process instituted to issue compliance letters prior to corrective actions has resulted in more than 75% compliance. The new process has been a resounding success.
- There are only 6 City businesses that have not obtained a 2008 business license; fines have been assessed.

- To our knowledge, all rental properties have obtained rental permits.
- Mr. Matthew Rush, who comes to the City via the DC Project Empowerment program, has been an excellent addition to the Code Enforcement department.
- Code Enforcement has been referring delinquent properties to a development team; they have purchased and rehabbed about a half-dozen properties in the City thus far.
- We have begun investigating problem properties with delinquent taxes to determine if the City can acquire the properties. Community Legacy has confirmed that our current grant funds can be used for this purpose.

Economic Development:

- A second appraisal proposal was received to assess all City-owned properties. It will be forwarded to the Economic Development Committee.
- The Seat Pleasant CDC project on Addison road fell through.
- All grant reports are current.
- We are still awaiting award notice for FY32 CDBG application.

Finance:

- Internal Audit – Lindsey & Associates is awaiting an opportunity to meet with the Finance Committee to review the company's internal audit proposal.
- External Audit – Mr. Jim Lindsey has advised that on site performance and follow-up meetings regarding the City's external audit have been completed. Lindsey & Associates will forward the final audit results and schedule a meeting with the City Council shortly.

Nuisance & Abatement:

- N&A worked closely with Code Enforcement to design and implement the new and highly successful compliance process to abate code issues.
- Ms. Sanders underwent CSAFE training to comply with grant requirements.

Public Works:

- New directional signs have been posted on Addison Road directing visitors to the Feggans Center.
- A trash contract with Bates Trucking is being finalized. The City currently has no service contract for trash and recycling.

Public Safety:

- A recommendation to purchase 10 new vehicles for the police department (8 sedans and 2 SUV's) has been packaged. The Public Safety Committee was unable to meet last week to review the proposal.
- Mr. Sussman is working on amendments to the City Code and O-07-04, Reserve Officer Program ordinance, so that the Police Department can implement the Reserve Officer Program. The projected date for the legislation is February 11th.
- **7a. Code Enforcement Report-Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer**
 - The Code Enforcement Department had sent out 80 notices and 17 residents are not in compliance. This is a significant difference in comparison to the previous month.
 - We collected \$13,600 in business license and \$2,100 in rental license fees.
 - Mr. Jenkins has cleaned up 90% of his property and remaining will be completed by the end of the week.
 - We addressed concerns in Ward II regarding overflowing of dumpsters and trash and debris in the front of the stores.
- **7b. Public Works Department- Louis Oliver, Foreman**
 - The Adak Alley Clean-up is currently underway with removal of trash and debris, cutting the grass and trees and all shrubbery and weeds.
 - The leaf pick-up season is over, but if you have any leaves, please place them in bags and contact the Public Works Department.
- **7c. Economic Development/Nuisance and Abatement-Darlinda Sanders, Special Assistant**
 - The Department of Economic Development has received and reviewed presentations for a Project Manager.
 - The City has received quotes from several firms regarding appraisals for all City owned properties.
 - Met with Veronica Owens, Project Manager with Community Legacy.
 - Currently looking for resources to strengthen the Seat Pleasant Community Development Corporation.
 - The City submitted a list of vacant properties to the Department of Taxation for investigation of possible fraud involving the Homestead Tax Credit.

- The Department received 40 complaints from October to December 2007, which were related to trash and lights out. Those complaints were referred to Bates and Pepco.
 - We are submitting the grant application due by April 1, 2008 for the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.
 - The Police Department along with the Nuisance and Abatement Officer has attended training as part of the preparation for the grant application.
- **7d. Finance Department-Robert Ashton, City Treasurer**
 - Mr. Ashton stated that his report was on the table, but he wanted to encourage the residents to come out for the Homestead Tax Credit to receive updates on the changes.
 - **7e. Police Department-Elliot Taylor, Chief of Police**
 - Chief Taylor stated that the department was in desperate need of new police vehicles.

LEGISLATION

Ordinance O-08-01 Obstruction of Public Places

Ordinance O-08-02 Retail Food Establishments and Litter Control.

The City Council consensus was to review and discuss the legislation in the Regular Work Session on Monday, March 3, 2008.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Roger Reynolds, Seat Pleasant, MD. CPAC would like to use the Feggans Center for this year to conduct the meetings. The trucks delivering to CVS on G Street broke up manhole.

Amanda Feggans, Seat Pleasant, MD. Thanked the City Council for the sign for the Feggans Center. Inquired if the City attended the hearing held on January 21, 2008. What's the status of the projects that were going to be developed on the vacant lot. Congratulated Ms. Yates on doing a fantastic job as the City Administrator.

Janice Fisher, Seat Pleasant, MD. Seat Pleasant Dollar for Scholars will be raising money for Scholarship by hosting a trip to Delaware and a trip to New York. The trip to Delaware will cost \$25.00, but you will get \$15.00 in coins. The trip to New York will be held in April to see A Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

Pamela Boone, Seat Pleasant, MD. Ms. Boone stated that the CPAC host Game Night to raise funds for the City. There is a meeting with the County Chief of Police at Carmody Hills Elementary School to discuss some crime strategies. The meeting will be on February 21, 2008 at 7:00p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Feggans Center Roof/After School Program
The City Council postponed the discussion.

9. C-Pac Request

The City Council approved the C-PAC to use the Feggans Center to conduct their meetings and Game Nights.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Homestead Tax Credit, Thursday, February 20, 2008 at 6:00p.m., Seat Pleasant City Hall Council Chambers

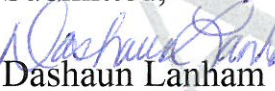
Ward I Meeting, Friday, February 15, 2008 at 6:00p.m., Seat Pleasant City Hall Council Chambers

Black History Month Program, Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 1:00p.m., Feggans Center, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD.

ADJOURN

It was motioned by Councilmember Porter to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:17p.m.

Submitted,


Dashaun Lanham
Acting City Clerk